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who were tempted to waste their earnings on drink, and then, their weekly cash advances having all been spent, they ran into debt in the native bazaars for necessary provisions.

Dewan's reply.—Government cannot make any changes in the location of shops during the currency of a contract. But before new contracts are given, the question of the location of shops will be carefully considered, and the Excise Commissioner will be instructed to consult your Association also about locating the shops. But Government cannot, however, commit themselves to the view that shops will not be opened near estates. The location of shops will be done in the interests of all parties. I may add that the present contract ends nine months hence.

50. Revised tariff valuation on copra, cocoanut oil &c.

Mr. P. John of Alleppey (Member, Nominated) requested that the tariff valuation on cocoanut oil recently enhanced be reduced and that the tariff on oil-cake be done away with. He said that, out of the entire cocoanut produce of the country, only ten per cent. was being consumed in the country, the rest being exported, either as copra or as oil. The increased tariff valuation on copra would not affect the peasant population as urged in some quarters, but would be of advantage to the garden-owners. The mill-owners would also be benefited by the present tariff policy of Government, if the tariff valuation on oil had not been likewise raised. The conditions of the mill industry have considerably changed, owing to the protective tariffs introduced by foreign countries, such as Germany and America. If the mills should fail and the copra market fall entirely into the hands of the foreign manufacturer, the consequences would be disastrous to the country. The owners of gardens would then have to be content with the pittance which the foreign agents might give. Government, he said, have done something, but they set about the matter half-heartedly. They have not only raised the tariff valuation on copra and cocoanut oil , but they have also introduced export duty on oil-cake for the first time. The price of punnac being only Rs. 20 per candy, any higher valuation, as at present fixed, would be against all principle. The member also referred to the statistics of trade, the charges for transport of copra, oil &c., and said that an unequal competition with foreign countries could not be maintained for long, unless Government came to their help.

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Dewan's reply.—The increased rates of tariff valuation on copra and cocoanut oil and the levy of duty on oil-cake came into force only from Ani 1082. It is far too early to make any change. The rates have to be allowed a fair trial. The rates are limited to a period of three years. The export duty on bones will be retained.

51. Administration of State finances.

Mr. A. Govinda Menon (Member, Parur Taluk) prayed for a fair and equitable administration of the State finances, in the matter of collection and distribution. He said that the expenditure, under such heads, as education, agriculture, &c., was inadequate and should be increased; that agricultural farms should be established, the pay of the teachers of primary schools should be increased, and that technical education should be encouraged. He urged retrenchment as regards expenditure under Oottupuras and Devaswams, D. P. W. and Forest. To increase the revenues of the State, he suggested the levy of tax on all incomes except those of persons following the agricultural industry, the introduction of the municipal system in all the important towns and the imposition of municipal tax, the development of the fisheries so as to be a source of income to the State and its subjects, and the development of the salt industry. He also referred to the allotments made for public works in the different Divisions and said that this was being done without any regard to the revenue derived from the several Divisions or to their wants. He suggested that Government should allot annually for each Division a sum for minor works proportionate to its needs and its revenues and that the sum should be spent through a Board with the Division Peishkar as President and a certain number of officials and non-officials as members. If this was done, he said that 99 per cent. of the local questions which came up before the Assembly would disappear from it and that the people would seldom have room to complain of the neglect of their concerns.

Dewan's reply.—There are several suggestions which the member has made. Some of them are by no means unreasonable. If the member will put what he has said in writing and send it up, I shall peruse his views carefully and I have no doubt that some of the suggestions will be of help to me.

52. Removal of restriction on cultivation of tobacco and bhang.

Mr. Subramonia Karayalan (Member, Shencottah Taluk) requested that, in the interests of the tax-payers the restriction on land-owners from cultivating tobacco and bhang be removed.

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